HOUSE: Historical, Representational, Political

Nonya Grenader / Arch 350 (002) / Fall 2019 Wednesday / 9:30am – 12:00pm / ANH 230

COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

Charles Moore, in *The Place of Houses*, speculates on the idea of the home: “You bind the goods and trappings of your life together with your dreams to make a place that is uniquely your own. In doing so you build a semblance of the world you know, adding it to the community that surrounds you." In this seminar, we will consider the house typology as a connective thread through history with embedded representational imagery and political implications. We will focus our discussion in the time period from 1910 to the present, looking primarily (but not exclusively) at American examples. We will examine the various forces that define the domestic realm and bring that larger view to specific Houston examples.

The class will be divided into three segments (historical, representational, and political/cultural), each beginning with overview lectures and discussions and followed by short readings, guest lectures, and field trips. At the end of each of the segments, students will prepare and present a concise response to one item or aspect we have discussed in the seminar. The goal is to look very closely at parts of a large subject, to edit to the essentials, and to find specificity and detail in developing responses in word and image. At the end of the semester, students will propose a comprehensive hypothesis regarding a single house or group of houses where historical significance, representation, and political/cultural forces align (or collide).

Grading Criteria

20% Two word/image responses.

30% Contribution to class discussion, reflecting comprehensive attention to assigned readings and engagement with various aspects of field trips and viewings. Students are expected to be in class on time, with appropriate materials for required pin-ups, presentations, readings, and site visits.

50% Final synthesis paper and class presentation.

A Exceptional work, beyond what is expected or required. Attends class regularly and contributes new and relevant ideas to class conversations and presentations that illuminate, inform, and/or challenge assumptions and perspectives. Exhibits a very high level of thought, skill, and creative thinking when preparing papers and presentations.

B Above average work. Attends class regularly and sometimes contributes new and relevant ideas to class conversations and presentations. Exhibits a good level of thought, skill, and creative thinking when preparing papers and presentations.

C Acceptable work—has no more than two unexcused absences and completes assignments, but rarely contributes in ways noted above.

D Unsatisfactory work—attends class sporadically and completes most assignments, but never contributes in ways noted above.

Office: ANH 302 (meeting/hours by appointment). E-mail: nonya@rice.edu

Absences: Since we meet only one day a week and many classes contain lectures, site visits, presentations that can't be repeated, attendance is extremely important. More than one unexcused absence (unless there is a significant reason) may impact grade.

Class Readings and Discussions:

Selected readings will be posted on Canvas (Files/Readings). Please refer to the class schedule for titles, suggested reading dates, and requirements for posting a question in Canvas (Discussion). After readings are completed, we will have a comprehensive class discussion led by students. Students will also develop a more focused reading selection to support their final paper topic.

Disability Accommodations:

Any student with a documented disability seeking academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Students with disabilities will need to contact Disability Support Services in Allen Center Room 111; Phone: 713-348-5841; Email: adarice@rice.edu.

SCHEDULE / HOUSE: Historical, Representational, Political

Nonya Grenader – Fall 2019 Updated 8-29-2019

Aug. 28
Introduction/Overview of the seminar.
Readings: Steven Holl, "Foundations: American House Types" in *Pamphlet Architecture No. 9*, p. 5-6. Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space*, p. 3-18. Robert Schultz, "The Levittown Look" in *Architecture of the Everyday,* p. 182-190.

Sept. 4
Lecture / Discussion: Progression through Time and Scale and the Modern Insertion.
Readings: Ester McCoy, "Case Study House #3" (Wurster and Bernardi) and "Case Study House #22" (Koenig) in *Blueprints for Modern Living: History and Legacy of the Case Study Houses*, p. 44-45, 71-72.

Sept. 11
NG Lecture / Discussion: The House in Multiples.
Guest speaker, architect Brett Zamore: "Shot-Trots, Z-Paks and other Multiples."
Readings: Beatriz Colomina, "The Split Wall: Domestic Voyeurism" in *Sexuality and Space*, p. 98-114. Peter Rowe, "Houses in Gardens" in *Making a Middle Landscape,* p. 67-83. Anthony Denzer, "Flexible Plans for Common People" in *Gregory Ain: The Modern Home as Social Commentary*, p. 141-157.

Sept. 18
Houston Tour/Part 1: Selected houses in Shadow Lawn and Boulevard Oaks/Ranch Estates.
Readings: Joseph Rosa, "Selling Architecture" in *A Constructed View: The Architectural Photography of Julius Shulman*, p.88-95. William Middelton, "Home" in *Double Vision*, p. 327-350.
For Sept. 25: Select an example of the house in history (past or more recent) and, in word and image, focus on an aspect, idea, or detail that distills its relationship to the house (submit two copies of the single page that includes text and image and post images on Canvas to present to class).

Sept. 25
Student Presentation: The House in History.
NG Lecture: Representation (photography, film, painting, installation) and the Domestic Window - Shulman, Hitchcock, Magritte, and Matta Clark. Relationships: *Portrait of Dominique* (Ernst), Menil House and Menil Museum.

Oct. 2
Viewing: The house in film--short segments including Alfred Hitchcock's *North By Northwest*, Wes Andersons's *Royal Tannenbaums*, and a segment of *This is Our Home, It is Not for Sale*, part 1 (Jon Schwartz, Director).
Readings: Lars Lerup, "The Nofamily House: Erasure, Repetition, and Insertion" in *Planned Assaults,* p.20-26. Robert Farris Thompson, "John Biggers's Shotguns of 1987: An American Classic" in *The Art of John Biggers,* p. 108-11.

Oct. 9
Viewing and Discussion: *Owned: A Tale of Two Americas* (Giorgio Angelini, Director).
Readings: Marie-Jeanne Dumont, "If Women Made Houses: Paulette Bernège's Crusade" in *yours critically/Criticat* and Keith Krumweide, "SuperModel Homes" in *Cite Magazine 54.*

Oct. 16
Houston Tour / Part 2: Selected Houses in Third Ward and Montrose.
Viewing and discussion at the **Menil Collection** - The Domestic Realm in Painting: Ernst and Magritte.
Readings: Albert Pope, "The Open City" and "Apparatus of Inclusion" in *Ladders*, p. 16-21 and Lisa Gray, "Saving the Tin Houses," Houston Chronicle, June 2011.

Oct. 23
Viewing and Discussion at the **MFAH photo archive** - The House in Photography: Evans, Cartier-Bresson, Shulman, Eggleston.
For October 30: Select an example of domestic representation (painting, photography, film) and, in word and image, focus on an aspect, idea, or detail that distills its relationship to the house (submit two copies of the single page that includes text and image and post images on Canvas to present to class).

Oct. 30
Student Presentation: Domestic Representation.
Lecture/Discussion: Social and Political Impact on Housing in Houston (New Hope model and others).
Final Student Paper assigned (abstract/presentation due on Nov.20 and final paper due on Dec. 5): A comprehensive look at a single house or group of houses where historical significance, representation, and political/cultural forces align (or collide). Seven to eight pages text with additional images.
Submit a single question (based on one of the posted readings) to Canvas (Discussion) on or before Nov. 4.

Nov. 6
Discussion (student-led) of all readings.
Note: Final paper/presentation should be in process.

Nov. 13
Houston Tour / Part 3 Progression through Time and Scale, Part 1: East End: Erasure and Development.

Nov. 20
All class: Students will present their final paper abstract (5 - 8 images with a concise verbal preview of your paper). Note: all students should be prepared to present on this date and **class will begin at 9am**.

Nov. 27 (Pre-jury week)**.**

Dec. 4 (Jury week)**—No class.**

Dec. 11
Conclusion/Discussion: The (Future) Place of Houses.
Final paper submitted to NG--one hard copy (in class) and e-mail pdf by 9am.